

May 11, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, Maryland 20852

0811 '99 MAY 17 10:15

**Re: Docket No. 98N-1038, Irradiation in the Production, Processing, and Handling of Food**

To whom it may concern:

I support the recommendation by the Center for Science in the Public Interest regarding labeling of irradiated foods:

**"any foods, or any foods containing ingredients that have been treated by irradiation, should be labeled with a written statement on the principal display panel indicating such treatment. The statement should be easy to read and placed in close proximity to the name of the food and accompanied by the international radura symbol. If the food is not packaged, this information should be clearly displayed on a poster in plain view adjacent to where the product is displayed for sale."**

Like other labels, irradiation labels are required by the FDA to be truthful and not misleading. I believe that the terms "treated with radiation" or "treated by irradiation" should be retained. Any phrase involving the word "pasteurization" is misleading. *Pasteurization is an entirely different process of rapid heating and cooling.*

The requirement for irradiation disclosure (both label and radura) should not expire at any time in the future. Even if some consumers become familiar with the radura, new consumers (e.g., young people, and immigrants) will not know what it means. The symbol should continue to be clearly explained at the point of purchase for everyone.

If there is no label, consumers will be misled into believing the food has not been irradiated. While this is clearly advantageous for the food processor, ***it is not for the consumer, whose safety the FDA is mandated to protect.***

Please be aware that FDA credibility as regards the safety of irradiated food is quite low. Many people are aware FDA research is often influenced by the businesses the agency is supposed to regulate. This is not an issue where the public will "take your word for it". We demand labeling that allows us to make our own decisions. The fact that the FDA considers irradiated foods to be safe does not alter the public's right to know and choose for themselves. If the FDA is representing the consumer and not the industry, this is quite obvious. If the FDA rules against consumer information, it will be very obvious whose interests the FDA truly represents. Think about the worth of your credibility when you make this decision. *It is on the line.*

98N-1038

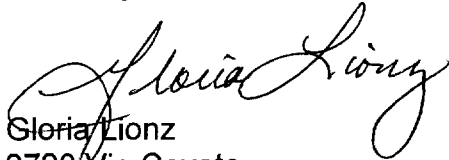
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Page 2

I urge you to extend the comment period past its current end date of May 18 to allow more concerned citizens the time to write in about this issue. Also, please place the comments received on the Internet so the public can be informed about who is participating in this comment process. We would especially like to know who funds the research of the "experts."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gloria Lionz". The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first name "Gloria" being more prominent than the last name "Lionz".

Gloria Lionz  
2720 Via Coyote  
Santa Cruz, CA 95065



Ms. Gloria Lionz  
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